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A63B 71/00

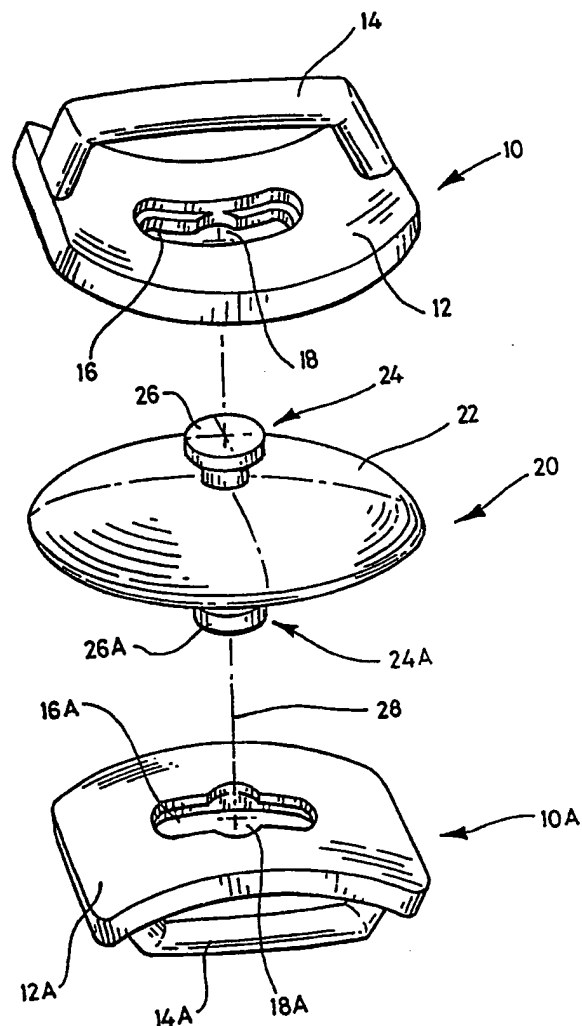
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None

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(54) Sporting apparatus

(57) Sporting apparatus which comprises two slotted hand shields (10, 10A) to be held by two respective contestants, and a knobbed prize member (20) which releasably couples to either one or both of the hand shields. In use, starting with the prize member coupled to both hand shields, the contestants manipulate the hand shields each to try to disconnect the prize member from the opponent's hand shield.

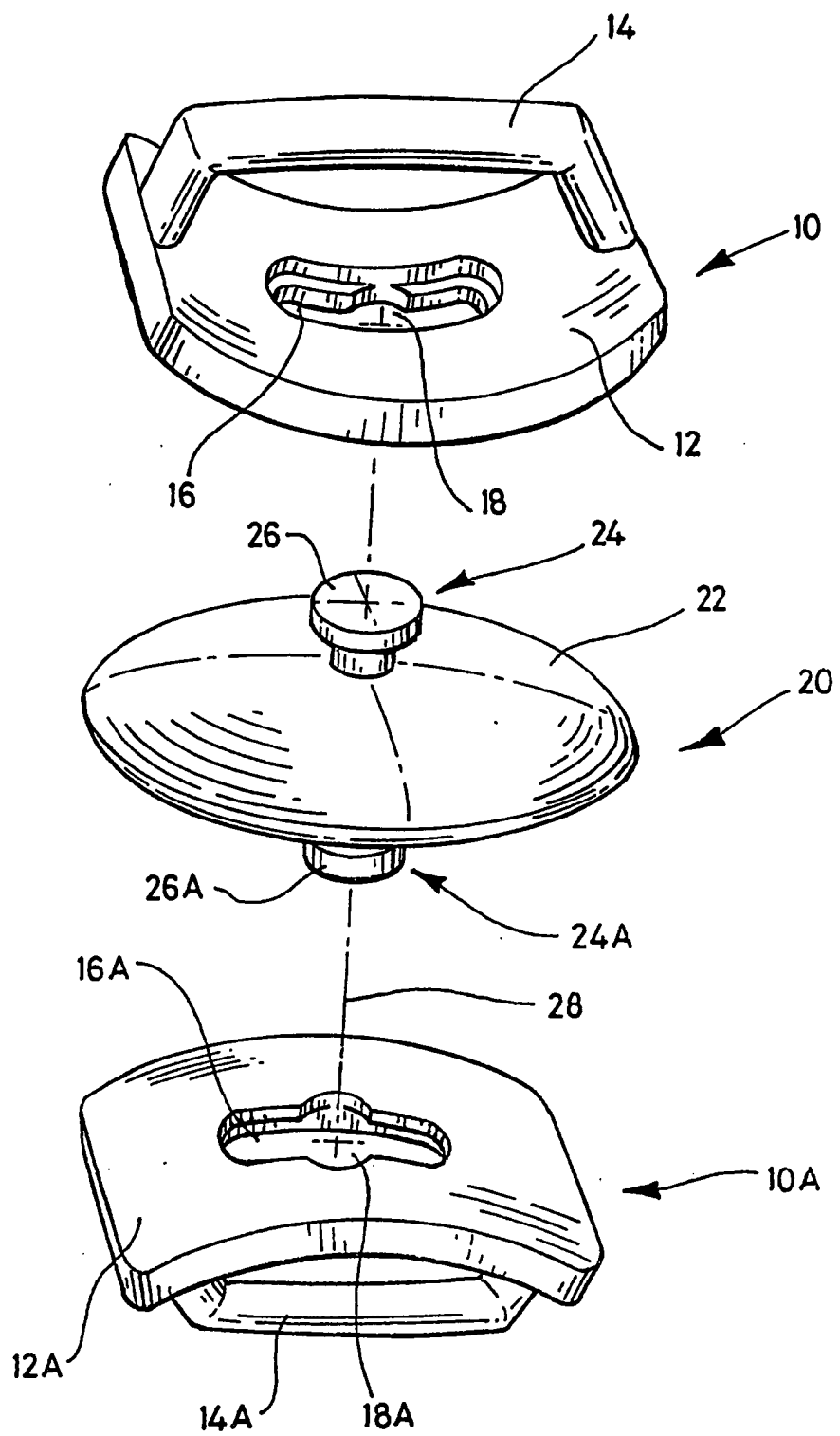


At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1990.

GB 2 256 150 A

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Sporting Apparatus

This invention relates to sporting apparatus and has for its object to provide novel sporting apparatus which can form the basis of a contest between two opponents.

- 5 According to the invention, there is provided sporting apparatus comprising two hand grip members each carrying a first part of a releasable coupling means and a prize member carrying two second parts of the releasable coupling means, whereby the two hand grip members can be connected  
10 together through the prize member, the coupling means being such that, by relative manoeuvring of one hand grip member relative to the other, said two hand grip members can be disconnected with the prize member remaining attached to one of them.
- 15 In use, the two hand grip members, connected together through the prize member, are respectively held by two contestants who each then endeavour, by displacements and/or twisting movements of the hand whilst watching the hand movements  
20 of the opponent, to cause the two hand grip members to separate, the winner being the contestant whose hand grip member retains the prize member.

- A preferred coupling means is a knob having an enlarged  
25 head which can pass through an enlargement in a slot which retains the knob except where the enlargement is provided. Two such knob and slot pairs are provided, respectively for coupling the respective hand grip members to the prize member. Preferably, for both pairs, the two knobs are  
30 provided on the prize member and the two slots in the respective hand grip members.

Thus, in one practical arrangement, each hand grip member comprises an arcuate flat part constituting a hilt and a bridgepiece extending across the hilt on its concave side to provide a hand grip spaced behind the hilt. The knob-  
5 receiving slot is then provided in said hilt, preferably extending lengthwise parallel to the hand grip and having the enlargement at its centre.

In this practical arrangement, the prize member preferably  
10 comprises a generally flat disc, in practice a substantially but not wholly flattened sphere, having headed knobs projecting centrally on opposite sides thereof.

The apparatus is preferably wholly made of polypropylene,  
15 the hand grip members by injection moulding and the prize member by blow or rotation moulding. Moulded polypropylene naturally has a somewhat waxy or oily surface finish which is advantageous for the purposes of the invention. The main body of the prize member, when hollow moulded, gives  
20 this member a degree of resilience along the centre axis passing through the knobs on its opposite sides, which is also advantageous.

A practical example of sporting apparatus in accordance  
25 with the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing, which shows the three parts of the apparatus in exploded view.

Referring to the drawing, the apparatus comprises two  
30 identical hand grip members 10, 10A each having a curved hilt 12, 12A bridged on the concave side by a part 14, 14A which provides a hand grip spaced behind the hilt.

The hilt 12, 12A has a slot 16, 16A extending parallel to

the hand grip 14, 14A and having a central enlargement 18, 18A.

The apparatus also includes a prize member 20 comprising a  
5 disc 22 in the form of a substantially but not wholly  
flattened sphere, said disc having aligned knobs 24, 24A  
projecting centrally on opposite sides thereof, said knobs  
having enlarged heads 26, 26A.

10 The heads 26, 26A of the knobs 24, 24A will just pass through  
the respective central enlargements 18, 18A of the respective  
slots 16, 16A, but over the portions of the lengths of said  
slots on either side of the enlargements will be retained by  
the hilt. The stems of the knobs 24, 24A below the heads  
15 26, 26A substantially fill the width of the portions of the  
slots 16, 16A to the sides of the enlargement.

For safety reasons, the lengths of the portions of the slots  
16, 16A to the sides of the enlargements 18, 18A are  
20 preferably such that if a finger is accidentally present  
in such a slot portion, the knob is prevented from entering  
this portion and will be stopped in line with the enlargement  
to release the coupling.

25 In use, the two hand grip members 10, 10A are interconnected  
through the prize member 20 by means of the above-described  
couplings. Two contestants then grip the respective hand  
grips and endeavour each by manoeuvring one hand grip member  
relative to the other with hand movements of displacement  
30 and twisting to cause the opponent's coupling to separate.  
The winner is the contestant who causes this to happen,  
whilst retaining the prize member coupled to his or her hand  
grip.

The preferred apparatus is moulded of polypropylene, the main body or disc 22 of the prize member 20 being formed hollow to impart a degree of resilience on the central axis 28 through the knobs. The hand grip members 10, 10A  
5 are injection moulded to be substantially rigid.

It will be appreciated that various modifications of the above-described and illustrated apparatus are possible within the scope of the invention hereinbefore defined.

- 10 For example, the knobs could be provided on the hand grip members, with the slots being provided in the prize member. Moreover, different and more complex forms of releasable coupling could be provided instead of the pairs of knobs and slots described.

Claims

1. Sporting apparatus comprising two hand grip members each carrying a first part of a releasable coupling means and a prize member carrying two second parts of the releasable coupling means, whereby the two hand grip members  
5 can be connected together through the prize member, the coupling means being such that, by relative manoeuvring of one hand grip member relative to the other, said two hand grip members can be disconnected with the prize member remaining attached to one of them.
- 10 2. Sporting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, in which the coupling means is a knob having an enlarged head which can pass through an enlargement in a slot which retains the knob except where the enlargement is provided.
- 15 3. Sporting apparatus as claimed in claim 2, in which two such knob and slot pairs are provided, respectively for coupling the respective hand grip members to the prize member.
- 20 4. Sporting apparatus as claimed in claim 3, in which, for both pairs, the two knobs are provided on the prize member and the two slots in the respective hand grip members.
- 25 5. Sporting apparatus as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, in which each hand grip member comprises an arcuate flat part constituting a hilt and a bridgepiece extending across the hilt on its concave side to provide a hand grip spaced behind the hilt.
- 30 6. Sporting apparatus as claimed in claim 5 when appendant to any of claims 2 to 4, in which the knob-receiving slot is then provided in said hilt, preferably extending lengthwise

parallel to the hand grip and having the enlargement at its centre.

7. Sporting apparatus as claimed in claim 6, in which the prize member comprises a generally flat disc.
8. Sporting apparatus as claimed in claim 7, in which the generally flat disc is a substantially but not wholly flattened sphere, having headed knobs projecting centrally on opposite sides thereof.
9. Sporting apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, in which the apparatus is wholly made of plastics material such as polypropylene, the hand grip members by injection moulding and the prize member by blow or rotation moulding.
10. Sporting apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.



**Patents Act 1977**  
**Examiner's report to the Comptroller under**  
**section 17 (The Search Report)**

Application number  
**9111834.9**

**Relevant Technical fields**

- (i) UK CI (Edition      K      ) A6D D11X A6S  
(ii) Int CL (Edition      5      ) A63B 71/00 A63H 33/00

Search Examiner  
  
**D WHITFIELD**

**Databases (see over)**

- (i) UK Patent Office  
(ii)

Date of Search  
**22 APRIL 1992**

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of claims

**1-10**

Category (see over)	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
	<b>NONE</b>	

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)

#### Categories of documents

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